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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURKINA FASO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint statement by the current Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity concerning the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the attached statement distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Michel KAFANDO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Joint statement by the current Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), issued in Ouagadougou on 28 February 1999

We welcome the acceptance by the Government of Eritrea of the OAU Framework Agreement. From the very beginning of the crisis, OAU has strived energetically to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. The Organization in particular deployed considerable efforts to avert the escalation of the conflict. We are saddened by the fact that despite all these efforts, war broke out between the two countries with considerable loss of life and destruction. Now is the time to look ahead.

It has consistently been the OAU position that the Framework Agreement does present a fair, balanced and sound basis to end this dispute. We recall that the Government of Ethiopia has already accepted the Framework Agreement. Therefore, given the acceptance by both parties of the Framework Agreement, we urge an immediate end to the fighting so that the modalities for a peaceful resolution of this unfortunate dispute in accordance with the Framework Agreement can be pursued.

To this end, OAU, especially through its High-Level Delegation, will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of its objective of bringing about a lasting peace between the two countries.